THE REFORM OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

24-25 MAY 2017 CONFERENCE
Programme

VENUE: INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, ST JULIANS, MALTA

THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN) IS CO-ORDINATED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION WITH NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS ESTABLISHED IN EACH EU MEMBER STATE PLUS NORWAY.

23RD MAY 2017

16.00-20.00 Early registration at the hospitality desk at the Intercontinental Hotel (for participants staying at the Intercontinental Hotel or nearby areas)

24TH MAY 2017

08.00 Registration and welcome coffee

09.15 Welcome

09.20 Opening remarks by Permanent Secretary Mr Kevin Mahoney, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Malta.

09.30 Opening remarks by Mr José Carreira, Executive Director, European Asylum Support Office.

Session 1, 2 and 3
CHAIR Ms Diandra Buttigieg, EMN National Contact Point, Malta.

Session 1 – Current situation, asylum-causing factors and possible future trends

09.40 Dr Violeta Moreno-Lax, Director and co-founder of the LLM in Immigration Law programme, Queen Mary University of London.

10.40 Coffee break

Session 2 – Asylum Procedures in the EU

11.00 Dr Martine Cassar, Malta Refugee Commissioner, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Malta.

Mrs Corinna Wicher, Head of Directorate for International Tasks of the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany.

Session 3 – Asylum Reception Conditions in the EU

12.00 Mr Joseph St John, Senior Official, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Malta.

Ms Camille Ruiz, Policy Officer, Emergency accommodation, national mechanism of emergency accommodation, follow-up of accommodation and orientation centres in France, France.

13.00 Networking Lunch
**Sessions 4 and 5**

**CHAIR Dr Jean Pierre Gauci,**

Founder and Director at

The People for Change Foundation.

Session 4 – Legal pathways and resettlement

14.30 Mr Federico Soda, Director, IOM Coordinating Office for the Mediterranean, Chief of Mission for Italy and Malta.

Mr Conny Larsson, Project Leader, EU-FRANK Project, Sweden.

Session 5 – Intra-EU solidarity

15.30 Ms Morena Termini, Communication Assistant, EASO Press, Communications and Stakeholders Relations team.

Ms Zoe Nasika, Head of Relocation Unit, Greek Asylum Service, Greece.

16.30 Concluding remarks for Day 1

17:30 Guided tour followed by dinner at the Maritime Museum in Vittoriosa (by invitation only)

25TH MAY 2017

08.30 Registration and welcome coffee

09.00 Welcome

**Sessions 6, 7 and 8**

**CHAIR Dr Carmen Sammut,**

Pro-Rector, University of Malta.

Session 6 – Cooperation with other countries

09.15 Mr Julien Simon, Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean, International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

10.15 Ms Catherine Woollard, Secretary-General, European Council on Refugees and Exiles.

Ms Regina Catrambone, Director, Migrant Offshore Aid Station.

Dr Jean Pierre Gauci, Founder and Director, The People for Change Foundation.

11.15 Coffee break

Session 7 – The role of civil society organisations

11.40 Ms Charmaine Hili, Asylum Policy Officer, DG Home, European Commission.

MEP Dr Roberta Metsola, Member of European Parliament, Malta.

MEP Dr Miriam Dalli, Member of European Parliament, Malta.

Ms Sophie Magennis, Head of the Policy and Legal Support Unit at UNHCR’s Office for Europe in Brussels.

12.40 Concluding remarks

Ms Diandra Buttigieg, EMN National Contact Point, Malta.

13.00 Networking Coffee Break
It is generally difficult to predict migration trends with a high degree of accuracy; however it should be evident that in the event of the absence of a solidarity mechanism Member States at the border - and consequently the entire Union - will remain more vulnerable to migration and asylum crises. At the same time civil conflicts in certain regions ensure that asylum will continue to be a dominant issue for the foreseeable future.
Since the start of the challenging issue of irregular migration, here in Malta, we have witnessed positive progress both on the logistical side and the legislative one. Definitely, Malta came a long way from its days of learning by doing. In fact, irregular migration was an unexpected emergency situation for Malta back in 2001. Seventeen years on from the inception of the irregular migration issue in Malta, there are still important issues to be addressed, relating to the quality of reception facilities, the efficiency of asylum procedures, legal pathways to migration and burden-sharing amongst others, notwithstanding the significant progress that has been registered in all areas. These issues are ultimately faced by all other EU Member States, including those with years of experience in migration and asylum, particularly in the aftermath of the pressing situation of 2015, which brought Europe face-to-face with a new unprecedented influx of migrants, who decided to forego the usual Central Mediterranean Maritime route, choosing instead a longer but allegedly safer route, passing through Turkey to Greece, up the Western Balkan route, arriving to Austria, continuing their way on to Germany and Sweden. Although it seems that the migratory flows have abated, the repercussions of the 2015 are still very present. It is generally difficult to predict migration trends with a high degree of accuracy; however it should be evident that in the event of the absence of a solidarity mechanism Member States at the border - and consequently the entire Union - will remain more vulnerable to migration and asylum crises. At the same time civil conflicts in certain regions ensure that asylum will continue to be a dominant issue for the foreseeable future.

Against this background the EU Member States facing irregular migration and asylum challenges, including Malta, are calling for the reform of the Common European Asylum System, which is currently underpinned by two legislative packages being proposed and discussed at EU level since 2016. These two legislative packages are primarily comprised of proposals for the establishment of a sustainable and fair Dublin system, reinforcement of the Eurodac system and establishment of a European Agency for Asylum and, secondly, the replacement of the Asylum Procedures Directive with a Regulation, the reform of the Reception Conditions Directive, the replacement of the existing Qualification Directive and the introduction of an EU Resettlement Framework.

One of the most significant aspects within the sphere of irregular migration is the asylum procedure. Seeking asylum entails procedures being set in place, which ensure a fair hearing of asylum seekers’ cases, the right to the presence of interpreters, the right to a subsequent application if necessary, the right of appeal and last but not least the
right to legal aid during appeal stage. The first stage of any asylum procedure, is adherence to the Dublin Regulation which entails that, each asylum seeker upon arrival at the first safe host country, must have his/her fingerprints registered by local immigration police. This fingerprint database is then duly shared among immigration police units in every EU Member States, including Europol. The issue of over 10,000 dispersed/missing migrant children along the Western Balkan route, led to an upgrading of the Eurodac, through the setting up of biometric facial measures thus ensuring more secure vetting of asylum seekers. Presently a serious endeavour is being worked upon to ensure an integrated, sustainable and holistic EU asylum policy, based on solidarity and burden-sharing policies which will be effective at all times. Additionally, reception conditions form a central aspect of migration. Malta, for instance, has seen a complete overhaul of its initial reception policy. In fact, in 2016, a new reception policy was introduced whereby the maximum detention period cannot exceed 9 months for asylum seekers, and new arrivals are placed in Initial Reception Centres for a short period of confinement during which processing is conducted, pending medical clearance, which stay cannot exceed 7 days.

In a European context questions are being raised with regard to the recast Reception Directive, mainly in relation to whether the proposed Directive ensures greater consistency in reception conditions across the EU. Another major issue is the need for Member States to be better prepared to deal with disproportionate numbers of migrants. The issue of secondary movement also arises, as one of the issues relating to reception is whether the proposed Directive reduces reception-related incentives for applicants to move irregularly into the EU and for secondary
movements, in particular to Member States where reception conditions are generally considered to be of a high standard. In addition, another point of concern is whether the recast of the Reception Conditions Directive would ensure that asylum applicants remain available throughout the asylum procedure to ensure a timely and effective assessment of their claim and therefore if it contributes to the effective implementation of the proposed Asylum Procedures and Qualification Regulations.

The discussion on new legal pathways for migrants wishing to settle within the EU’s territory has recently been very much focused on resettlement programmes. However, one of the major debates relates to intra-EU solidarity, which in the last two years has been focused on the relocation of migrants from Greek and Italy to other Member States. The extent of the alleviation of pressure on Italy and Greece by the relocation emergency measure instated by Council Decisions 2015/1523 and 2015/1601 in September 2015 is still to be analysed. In the light of the relocation mechanism, one has to enquire whether the overhaul of the Common European Asylum System addresses both immediate and the long-term challenges of managing migration flows effectively and comprehensively and whether the proposed Regulations and Directives permit the EU to function effectively both in times of calm and crisis.

Another important dimension is of course the external one. Whilst in this sphere progress has been registered through the 2015 Valletta Summit on Migration, which had a positive outcome, the extent to which this summit has provided a long-term and durable solution of course remains to be assessed. It is undoubtedly crucial for the Union to continue working on the outcome of this Summit to ensure that this does indeed prove to be the case.
Ms Buttigieg took up her current position of Assistant Director of the Third Country Nationals Unit, Malta Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security in October 2016. In her current role, she is the coordinator of the Maltese National Contact Point for the European Migration Network. Also, she covers other activities such as the relocation and resettlement programmes to Malta and ensuring a positive networking with all entities in the field of migration in Malta. Buttigieg's expertise encompasses the EU Funding and programmes aspect. In fact, from 2012 to 2016, she worked in this sphere as a project officer and project manager, where she had the possibility of working and observing different EU Projects, within the Migration Funds Unit at the Ministry for European Affairs and Implementation of the Electoral Manifesto. Between 2010 and 2011, Buttigieg worked at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as a Visa Officer. Buttigieg studied at the University of Malta, where she read for a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations as well as a Master’s Degree in International Relations, writing her dissertation on ‘the shift in the human-state security balance in the de-territorialisation of border control’.
CARREIRA JOSE

Mr Carreira holds a Masters in Economics and a Post Graduation Certificate in Corporate Financial Management. During his career of over 34 years, Carreira worked in senior management positions in the private and in the public sector, in Europe, in Africa and in Asia, with the UN, EU agencies and professional private firms. The main areas of work have included, amongst others, audit and financial management, advisory services, aviation safety, information security, financial markets authorities, law enforcement agencies, border management and asylum and migration.

Since April 2016, Carreira has worked as the Executive Director of EASO in Malta. From 2002 to early 2016, he headed senior management positions in several EU agencies in Spain, Germany, Greece, the UK, Poland and France. From 1998 to 2001, he worked as a senior manager of the Financial Management Solutions group with Deloitte in Johannesburg, South Africa.

From 1993 to 1997, he was the regional manager of the UN emergency operations in Africa (for the Southern Africa, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes programmes) and later in Central Asia, based in Islamabad (for the Afghanistan and other Asian programmes). From 1991 to 1993, he was as senior financial management consultant with KPMG, in several countries in Southern Africa. From 1989 to 1991, he worked as a senior economist in natural resources planning with the UN DTCD in New York, USA. From 1987 to 1989, he was a programme operations manager with the US AID, in Maputo, Mozambique.

CASSAR MARTINE

Dr Cassar was appointed as the Commissioner for Refugees in October 2016. She is the third Maltese Refugee Commissioner and the first woman to be fulfilling this role since the Office was set up in 2002.

Prior to her appointment, Cassar headed the Office of IOM Malta for over two years. She graduated as a lawyer from the University of Malta in 2008, and specialised in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights at the Academie de Droit International Humanitaire et de Droits Humains in Geneva. Cassar has been active in the field of migration, refugee law and counter-trafficking, amongst others for the past five years.
CATRAMBONE REGINA
Ms Catrambone is the Director and Co-Founder of the Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS), together with her husband Mr. Christopher Catrambone.
Catrambone moved to Malta in 2007 with her family. Following the Lampedusa tragedy of 2013, when about 400 migrants drowned, the Catrambone family decided not to remain bystanders. They purchased a boat, equipped a crew and founded MOAS, a search and rescue charity dedicated to saving lives at sea.
Since 2014, MOAS has rescued and assisted over 33,000 people from the Mediterranean and Aegean seas. The Catrambone family hopes that their humanitarian initiative will inspire others globally.

DALLI MIRIAM
Dr Dalli is a Maltese Member of the European Parliament (MEP) elected in May 2014, who currently sits on the Committee of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and the Delegation for Relations with the Maghreb Countries and the Arab Maghreb Union.
Dalli was appointed as the Socialists and Democrats initial shadow rapporteur following the publication of the European Commission’s first Permanent Crisis Relocation proposal, prior to the release of the latest Dublin Regulation. Aside from this, Dalli also represented the Progressive family vis-a-vis negotiations on the EU’s return document for third-country nationals staying illegally in the EU and the introduction of a fundamental rights complaints mechanism in FRONTEX (now included in the European Border Coast Guards proposal). She is currently working on the amendments to the Schengen Information System on behalf of the Socialists and Democrats.
Dalli has been a staunch advocate for the removal of the first entry criterion when determining a Member State responsible for the application of an asylum seeker, and advocates instead for the introduction of a Pan-European centralised system. Dalli has also given interviews to global news outlets such as the BBC, Al Jazeera and Euronews on her work in the field of EU Immigration Policy.
She currently also sits as a full member on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) – where she is the coordinator for her political group, the Committee on Petitions (PETI), and on the Delegation to the EU-Armenia, EU-Azerbaijan and EU-Georgia Parliamentary Cooperation.

GAUCI JEAN-PIERRE
Dr Gauci is Founder and Director at The People for Change Foundation, Research Fellow in Public International Law at the British Institute for International and Comparative Law and Visiting Lecturer in International Migration Law at the University of Malta. Gauci holds a PhD in Law from King’s College London where his research focused on trafficking-based asylum claims. He also holds a Doctor of Laws (LLD) and a Magister Juris in international law from the University of Malta. Gauci has extensive experience of research and work on various human rights-related issues on both the national and European level, including coordination of research teams. In the past he was Group Coordinator for Amnesty International in Malta and Board Member of the European Network Against Racism. He is co-editor of: Exploring the Boundaries of Refugee Law: Current Protection Challenges (Brill 2015); A Liberal Tide? Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy in Latin America (ILAS, 2015); British Influences on International Law (Brill/BIICL 2016) and The Role of Legal Advisers in International Law (Brill/BIICL 2016)

HILI CHARMAINE
Ms Hili is a policy officer at the European Commission where she works in the development of Union policies and legislation on migration and home affairs. Hili’s expertise in border management, migration and asylum has proven invaluable in the preparation of the Commission’s proposals on the European Border and Coast Guard in 2015 and on reform of the Common European Asylum System in 2016. She has a leading role in the negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council on the Commission proposals for regulations on the European Union Agency for Asylum and on the Asylum Procedure. She is also responsible for the overall coordination of the negotiations of the reform of the Common European Asylum System.
Hili joined the EU institutions in 2004 starting with the Court of Justice of the EU and later the European Commission soon after completing her studies in law at the University of Malta. She moved on to further specialise in European law at the European Institute for Public Administration in 2008 in Luxembourg.

LARSSON CONNY
Mr Larsson has a Master of Laws in international and human rights law. His work experience has primarily been with the Swedish Migration Agency in the field of asylum, but also in a wide range of other areas in both operational and senior management positions. He spent two long periods of work abroad for UNRWA in Damascus and for the Swedish Embassy in Bangkok. In addition he conducted extensive international work with the focus on capacity building and harmonization of the EU acquis. Lately, Larsson emphasized on project management and he is currently leading a twinning project in Serbia with the overall objective to contribute to Serbia’s efforts to harmonise national policies within the home affairs sector in line with EU standards and the acquis in the field of asylum and migration. Also, he is leading the EU-FRANK project which aims to develop new approaches and provide support to increase EU Member States’ competence and operational capacity to resettle persons in need of international protection.

LUTIN WARD
Mr Lutin is the Head of EASO’s Information and Analysis Unit (IAU) since July 2016 (ad interim) and October 2016 (formally appointed). Under his lead, the unit develops data analysis and research on asylum flows in the framework of an early warning and preparedness system, collects and analyses information on national asylum systems in Europe in the framework of the Information and Documentation System (IDS), and organises activities regarding country of origin information (COI), including the management of country networks and joint production of COI reports. From December 2012 until June 2016, Lutin coordinated all EASO activities relating to COI within the same unit.
Before joining EASO in December 2012, Lutin worked as Programme Officer in the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGO) in Geneva, an informal, non-decision making forum for information exchange and policy debate on issues of relevance to the management of international migratory flows. Between 2000 and 2009, Lutin worked consecutively as Protection Officer, COI Officer, Senior Protection Officer and International Relations Officer in the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS), the Belgian national asylum authority.

**MAGENNIS SOPHIE**

Ms Magennis is Head of the Policy and Legal Support Unit at UNHCR’s Bureau for Europe in Brussels. Prior to her appointment, she was UNHCR’s Head of Office in Ireland. Previously, she was Head of Policy and Legislation at the Irish Ombudsman for Children’s Office and Administrator of the Irish Human Rights Commission.

She co-founded Human Rights Consultants in 2000. Prior to that, she served as Deputy to the Irish Ambassador to the Council of Europe. She has worked with the Council of Europe as Legal Consultant to the Monitoring Unit of the Secretary General and as a Legal Expert at the Council of Europe’s Section for Equality between Women and Men.

She is an Attorney and Counselor at Law at the New York State Bar and holds a European Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the European Inter-University Centre in Venice, Italy.
MAHONEY KEVIN
Mr Mahoney was born at Sliema on the 26th May 1962. He received his secondary education at St Joseph’s Secondary, Paola and obtained a B.A.(Hons) degree in Public Administration from the University of Malta in 1985. He joined the Public Service as an Administrative Officer in 1986 and was posted at the Electoral Office as officer in charge of the Department. He was also appointed Secretary to the Electoral Commission. In 1989 he was posted for a short period of time at the Inland Revenue Department and in the same year was eventually deployed with the Notary to Government Department as Head of administration, finance and human resources. He was appointed Assistant Court Registrar in 1994. In 2001 he was appointed Director/Registrar of the Civil Courts and Civil Tribunals. In 2007 he was promoted to Director General at the Courts of Justice and national delegate on the Council of the European Union working party on eJustice. In 2013 he was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Malta.

METSOLA ROBERTA
Dr Metsola was elected to the European Parliament in 2013 [EPP], becoming one of Malta’s first female Members of the European Parliament. Professionally she is a lawyer who has specialised in European law and politics. She has previously worked at the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union and as legal advisor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Metsola is the EPP Coordinator of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), where she is the lead MEP on migration issues. Metsola was also the co-rapporteur on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration. Metsola is the Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Petitions (PETI) and a member of the Delegation for relations with the United States (D-US). She is also a substitute member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and the Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand (DANZ).
MORENO-LAX VIOLETA

Dr Moreno-Lax is Lecturer in Law, founding Director of the Immigration Law programme, and inaugural Co-Director (2014–2016) and co-founder of the Centre for European and International Legal Affairs (CEILA) at Queen Mary University of London. She is also a Fellow of the Centre for European Law of King’s College London, EU Asylum Law Coordinator at the Refugee Law Initiative of the University of London, Co-Chair of The Refugee Law Observatory, Convener of the Society of Legal Scholars (SLS) Migration Law Section, as well as member of the Steering Committee of the Migration Law Network. Since January 2016, she is part of the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Migration and Law. Before coming to Queen Mary, she was a Lecturer in Law at the Universities of Liverpool (2012–2013) and Oxford (2011–2012). She has held visiting positions at the Universities of Macquarie and New South Wales (Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law) (2016–2017), Oxford (Refugee Studies Centre) (2010–2012), Nijmegen (Centre for Migration Law) (2009–2010), and The Hague Academy of International Law (Research Session 2010). She read Law in Murcia (LLB/LLM), European Studies in the College of Europe (MA), and EU Immigration and Asylum Law at the Free University of Brussels (PG Certificate), before obtaining her Doctorate in Law from the University of Louvain (PhD). She has published widely in the areas of international and European refugee and migration law and acts regularly as expert consultant for the EU institutions and other organisations in the field. Her monograph, Accessing Asylum Europe, is forthcoming with OUP.

NASIKA ZOE

Ms Nasika is a lawyer, working on migration and refugee issues since 2010. From 2010 until 2012, she served as Chair at the Greek Asylum Appeal Committees, an independent quasi–judicial body with a mandate to examine on second administrative instance appeals on asylum applications rejected at the first instance. From 2012 to 2015 she held the position of Special Rapporteur in the department of Legal Support and Documentation of the Greek Appeals Authority.
As of October 2015, following the adoption by the European Council of Decisions 2015/1523 and 2015/1601 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece, she was nominated as the Greek National Contact Point for Relocation and appointed Head of the Relocation Unit, the dedicated department of Greek Asylum Service for the implementation of relocation programme.

She graduated from the Legal Department of Thessaloniki Law School and has a PhD in Cultural Management and a Masters Degree from the National School of Public Administration.

OSEI-AGYEMAN MATILDA AKU ALOMATUS

Ms Osei-Agyeman is currently the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Ghana High Commission in Valletta in charge of Political, Economic and Diaspora Affairs.

She began her diplomatic career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ghana in 1999 and has served in various positions, at home and abroad assisting in both bilateral and multilateral issues in respect of Ghana's Foreign Policy.

Prior to taking up her current position in October 2016, Osei-Agyeman served as the Deputy Chief of Protocol at Ghana’s Foreign Ministry. Before then, she served in other capacities in Ghana Diplomatic Mission in Washington D.C. (USA); and Ghana's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva, (Switzerland) with responsibility for some UN Agencies in Vienna (Austria).

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from the University of Ghana, Legon.
The reform of the Common European Asylum System

RUIZ CAMILLE
Ms Ruiz is a Policy Officer for emergency accommodation at the Department of Reception of Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Directorate-General for Foreign Nationals in France, French Ministry of the Interior. She currently works on the development and structuring of emergency housing capacities, which are mainly used to accommodate asylum seekers settled in overcrowded territories, such as the Paris area, or in order to dismantle makeshifts camps. Her role involves regular contact and advice with local and regional authorities, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the different facilities. She has previously worked as a legal adviser and social worker in a reception platform for asylum seekers, and with unaccompanied foreign minors.

SAMMUT CARMEN
Dr Sammut is Pro Rector for Student and Staff Affairs and Outreach of the University of Malta. She lectures in the Department of International Relations (Faculty of Arts) where she also served as Head of Department. She currently chairs a number of University entities that include the Institute for European Studies, the International Foundation School and the Access Disability Senate Committee.

She holds a PhD in Media and Communications from Goldsmiths College, University of London. She obtained her Masters (cum laude), a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and a BA Degree from the University of Malta. She currently teaches and writes about journalism, international communications, political communication and issues of culture in international affairs. At the University of Malta she also teaches journalism within the Faculty of Media and Knowledge Sciences (MAKS).

Sammut is a long experienced broadcaster and regularly appears as an analyst discussing current events. She started her career as a journalist with the national broadcasting station in the early 1980s, where she mainly engaged with the writing and production of foreign news and current affairs programmes.
SIMON JULIEN
Mr Simon worked at ICMPD Headquarters in Vienna from 2001 until 2012, ICMPD Brussels Mission from 2012 until 2015, and moved to Malta in 2016 where he assumed the position of Head of the ICMPD Regional Coordination Office for the Mediterranean. Previously he held various positions, including Senior Programme Manager, Head of the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Transit Migration Dialogue and Team Leader of the EUROMED Migration III. He developed a significant experience over the course of his career particularly focused on migration cooperation between Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Also, he managed a portfolio of large initiatives of multilateral, multi-thematic and complex nature in migration governance and inter-institutional cooperation and coordination; in information sharing mechanisms and migration knowledge management, and notably created the Interactive Map on Migration (i.Map) platform; in specific themes such as irregular and mixed migration, migration and development, urban governance of migration, and communication on migration.

SODA FEDERICO
Mr Soda is the Director of the IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean in Rome, where he is responsible for IOM activities in Italy, Malta and the Holy See. Before assuming his current position in October 2014, he was the Head of the Labour Migration and Human Development Division at IOM headquarters from June 2010 to September 2014. In that capacity he oversaw IOM’s activities in the areas of labour migration, integration and migration and development. From 2005 to June 2010, Soda worked on labour migration, migration and development, and policy at IOM’s Regional Office for Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand. Soda worked with IOM in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001-2005) and Myanmar (2008). In addition, before joining IOM, he practiced labour and employment law with McCarthy Tétrault in Toronto, Canada.
The reform of The Common European Asylum System

Mr St. John has been working at the Ministry for Home Affairs since 2002, when he performed EU-related duties vis-à-vis Malta’s EU accession process. He was subsequently entrusted with policy formulation and international relations, along with other related duties. During this period Mr. St. John worked on migration issues, asylum as well as other policy areas, including Freedom of Information. More recently, Mr. St. John has been involved in the formulation of Malta’s ‘Strategy for the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants,’ as well as in the chairing of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) during the term of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU.

ST. JOHN JOSEPH

Mr St. John has been working at the Ministry for Home Affairs since 2002, when he performed EU-related duties vis-à-vis Malta’s EU accession process. He was subsequently entrusted with policy formulation and international relations, along with other related duties. During this period Mr. St. John worked on migration issues, asylum as well as other policy areas, including Freedom of Information. More recently, Mr. St. John has been involved in the formulation of Malta’s ‘Strategy for the Reception of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants,’ as well as in the chairing of the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) during the term of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU.
Ms Termini joined the European Asylum and Support Office (EASO) in November 2015 as a Communication Assistant. Since then she has been coordinating EASO relations with key stakeholders, including EU Institutions – European Commission, European Parliament and the Council – as well as Member States and EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies. Working as part of the EASO Press, Communications and Stakeholders Relations team, Termini is the main coordinator for briefings in view of high-level internal and external meetings where EASO is represented. Before joining EASO, Termini worked as Communication and Information Assistant at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Directorate-General for Environment, as well as at the United Nations Regional Information Centre (UNRIC) based in Brussels. Having studied in Catania, Rome and Brussels, she graduated in Politics and International Relations and she holds a Master’s Degree in International Relations.
**WICHER CORINNA**

Ms Wicher is the Head of Subdivision 21 on International Tasks and Administration of EU Funds. The main responsibilities of Subdivision 21 are cooperating with the partners and European institutions in order to effectively implement the legal norms in practice. Another major part is the administration of the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) as an authority with responsibility for EU tasks. AMIF is to support the European Union in implementing a joint European asylum system and promoting the integration of third-country nationals, legal migration and returns. Wicher studied law in Germany and Ireland and completed her second State examination in 2003.

In 2006 she started her career at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees as a desk officer in various areas such as human recourses, integration and fundamental issues regarding Migration, Asylum Procedures, Voluntary Return and temporary protection. From the beginning Ms Wicher was involved in continuous, collaborative exchange with European and international bodies, inter alia, leading projects for humanitarian admissions and contingent refugees in support of the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

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**WOOLLARD CATHERINE**

Ms Woollard took up the position of Secretary General of ECRE, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, in February 2016. ECRE is a pan-European alliance of over 90 NGOs in 38 European countries. ECRE works to protect the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in Europe. ECRE’s mission is to promote the establishment of fair and humane European asylum policies and practices in accordance with international human rights law.

Woollard has worked in the NGO sector since 2003, focusing on human rights, minority protection, security and governance. She has managed programmes in different regions of the world, as well as working in policy and management. She has also worked for the UK government; as a university lecturer in political science; and as a consultant advising governments, international organisations and NGOs.